ACCESSING META INFORMATION TRIGGERS AUTOMATIC BUFFERING

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A "content re-entry" feature is provided that allows a user to return to an indicated point

5   in a content stream, after being "distracted" by meta-information. Each time a user, or

application, begins to follow a related or alternative content (a distraction path), a re-entry point

in the original content stream is recorded, thereby facilitating a return to the point at which the

distraction occurred. In a broadcast presentation, an access to meta-information is integrated with

the storage of content material. Each time a user requests access to meta-information, a recording

10   device is automatically activated to record the content material and to store the location of the

start of the recording. When the user terminates the presentation of the meta-information, the

presentation of the content material is automatically resumed at the stored location. The

recording of the content material continues while the content material is being viewed, so as to

provide a continuous, albeit time-shifted, presentation of the content material after the

15   presentation is resumed. In a controllable streaming presentation, the streaming is terminated

while the distraction path is being followed, then resumed at the point at which it had been

terminated.